



21 July 2023

Dear Parent/Carer

Sports Award Evening

Thanks so much to the PE Department for organising a fabulous Sports Award evening this Tuesday. The achievements of a huge number of Backwell students, both in and outside of school, was recognised in sports from fencing to taekwondo. The audience saw a very appropriate balance of emphasis on the values of endeavour, teamwork, leadership and participation against the celebration of sporting excellence.

Sports Day

Finally, Sports Day went ahead – at the third time of asking and in perfect weather. Hundreds of students in Years 7-10 took part in at a least one event, while no less important was the contribution of spectators who, with vibrant house colours and home-made banners, made the event a fantastic celebration. Sedgemoor were victorious and retain the Sports Day trophy for another year.

Charity Fund-raising

There is rarely a week at Backwell where students are not involved in some kind of charity work, but this week was especially busy! The Staff held a coffee and cake afternoon on Tuesday which raised over £500 for Macmillan Cancer Research and Tommy's baby charity. Today our non-uniform day is likely to raise around £1,000 for the [Za Foundation](#), a long-standing charity partner of the school who work in South Africa supporting children and young people in Nkomazi. And additional; charity funds were raised on Sports Day via a 'tuck sale' and a donation from the Ice Cream Van!

.... And finally

As the academic year 2022-23 comes to a close, I'd like to thank all the Backwell parents and carers for their support over the last twelve months. You have demonstrated that support in many ways, including attendance at parents' evenings, sending messages of thanks to school staff, attending school events and contributing to the excellent work of the BSA. Most of all I'd like to thank you working together with us to support the learning of pupils at the school.

I hope you all have a very restful and enjoyable summer.

Yours sincerely

Mr J Nunes
Headteacher

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MESSAGES

Start of the new School Year

The first day back for Year 7 and Year 12 students is Wednesday 6 September. All other students return on Thursday 7 September.

Friday 22 September is an INSET day.

Complete term dates for the academic year 2023-24 can be found on the school website by [clicking here](#).

School Uniform

A reminder that we expect all students to be in full, correct, uniform. [Full details of our uniform expectations can be found on our website](#). Pupils not wearing correct uniform will be challenged and staff will contact home to discuss what items of their uniform needs changing to ensure that our expectations are met.

As you prepare and purchase school uniform and equipment over the next few weeks, please ensure that the items you buy are suitable. Trousers are a particular issue; they should be black and must not be jeans/denim, too tight fitting or leggings. If you are planning on ordering new uniform for September, then you will need to place your **order before Tuesday 1 August** to ensure delivery before the start of term. Price and Buckland have issued some useful information about how to measure and order online. Please click on the following link to [view the information from Price and Buckland](#)

Can we also take this opportunity to urge parents to label all school clothes and bags? All named equipment that goes to lost property is returned, however we regularly end a term with hundreds of un-named and un-claimed items. Remember those little name tags you had sewn into your school uniform when you were at school? They are still very valuable!

Equipment

Please check the required equipment list which can be found [here](#) to ensure your son/daughter is fully prepared for lessons in September.

Catering Tills

We will be updating our catering tills over the summer. This means that we will need to register all staff and students again for biometric, thumbprint recognition. As before, all data will remain within the school in the form of an algorithm which cannot be used to recreate the thumbprint. We will use the consent preferences you have already provided for this so there is no need to provide additional consent however please get in contact if you would like to discuss or amend this. All staff and students will also be provided with a numeric PIN which can be used instead of the thumbprint.

Lockers

We will be changing the way lockers are provided on the school site from September. We are moving to an external provider who will manage the entire system on our behalf. If your child has a locker currently then this will need to be returned in September and any remaining deposit will be returned

to you (or you may wish to donate the money to the school fund if you prefer). We will provide further information about how to acquire a new locker at the start of the new term.

Something to shout about!

Please take a look at some of the things that have been taking place recently

[Bake Off Competition - 2023](#)

[Lessons from Auschwitz Project 2023](#)

[Charity Fundraiser at Backwell Playhouse](#)

Upcoming Events

Monday 4 and Tuesday 5 September	INSET day ... school is closed to students
Wednesday 6 September	Staggered start ... Students in Years 7 and 12 return to school
Thursday 7 September	Staggered start ... All students in school
Tuesday 12 September	Year 10 Parents' Information Evening
Wednesday 13 September	Year 12 Parents' Information Evening
Thursday 14 September	Year 11 Parents' Information Evening
Wednesday 13 September	West Side Story Auditions – Jet and Shark male roles, 3.20 – 5.30 pm in Sixth Form Theatre
Thursday 14 September	West Side Story Auditions – Jet and Shark female roles, 3.20 – 5.30 pm in Sixth Form Theatre

For further trips and events, please see the [‘Calendar’ page](#) on the school website.

Quick link to [Parents' Handbook 2022-23](#)

LETTERS HOME

[Sixth Form Bulletin for week commencing 4 September](#) – Parents/Carers of Sixth Form students

[Year 8 Mathematics Setting for September](#) – Parents/Carers of current Year 7 students